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Inventory For
Manuscript Collection
MS-382

Capt. Shubael Merriman Papers

Inclusive dates: n.d., 1846-1899
Bulk Date: 1864-1871

by
Anastasia S. Weigle
(assisted by Peter Dublin)
November 2012

Shelf feet: .25
Number of boxes: 1

Accession No. 2004.40.1—3, 2004.66.366

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Abstract

Merriman, Shubael, *Captain* (b.1806 - d. 1898)

Papers, n.d.,1846-1899 (Bulk dates: 1864-1871)

1 manuscript box (.25 shelf feet)

Shipmaster and ship owner of Harpswell, Maine.

Vessel papers for the schooner *Harriet* and brig *Angier H. Curtis* including articles of agreement, construction accounts, general accounts, bill of lading documents, hospital dues and a list of stores. Personal papers consist of one letter written by Capt. Angier H. Merriman, a visiting card and envelope sent by Lydia D. Skolfield to Mr. & Mrs. Shubael Merriman, invoices, and a pamphlet written by Henry Ward Beecher dated 1854.

Purchased from John Bussey on July 8, 2004. Gift of Charles E. Burden Oct. 19, 2004.

MS-382, Accession No. 2004.40.1, 2004.40.02, 2004.40.03, 2004.66.366

Related material museum artifact, G93.90.11

Finding aid available in repository, folder and item level control.

Added entries—persons:

Merriman, Angier H., *Captain*

Merriman, Augustus

Merriman, Isaac, *Captain*

Merriman, Shubael, *Captain*

Skolfield, Lydia D.

Added Entries—corporate bodies (including vessels):

Angier H. Curtis (Brig)

Harriet (Schooner)

Added entries—places:

Cardenas (CUB)

Harpswell (ME)

Havana (CUB)

Matanzas (CUB)

Merriman Cove (ME)

Added entries—key terms:

Diplomatic and consular service

Merchant seamen

Photographs

Shipyards

Shipyards—Harpswell (ME)

Acquisition

The majority of the collection was purchased from John Bussey on July 8, 2004, accession nos. 2004.40.01, 2004.40.02, and 2004.40.03. Articles of Agreements dated 1846, 1867, and 1871 donated by Charles E. Burden on October 19, 2004, accession no. 2004.66.366

Provenance

Mr. Bussey was said to have purchased the collection from a man whom appeared to be a collector/dealer. However, is it unknown where the "Collector/Dealer" acquired them. The three Articles of Agreement donated by Charles E. Burden was part of a larger collection. At present, the provenance for these collections is unknown.

Restrictions

There are no restrictions on the use of these materials for study or research.

Physical Condition

The vessel papers are in very good condition with a few tears and surface dirt. These documents were housed in a notebook of Mylar sleeves. They have been removed and organized in standard sequence as established for vessel papers.

There are seven photographs—6 silver gelatin and sepia-toned prints and one albumen print. This is an albumen print mounted on board. The bottom left of the board has broken away. There are six Articles of Agreement in good to fair condition with creases, tears and surface dirt. They have been lightly flattened with a tacking iron.

Processing Notes

All vessel documents were removed from their Mylar sleeves and rehoused in acid free folders organized in the standard sequence as been established for vessel papers. All photographs were placed in paper photo sleeves. A Mylar dust jacket was created for the small religious pamphlet.

The collection is group into three series: Series I: Vessel Papers, Series II: Family Papers and Series III: Photographs. Two appendices were created for this collection: Appendix A. List of Photographs and Appendix B. List of Crewman

Historical Notes

The schooner *Harriett* [alternate spelling *Harriet*] was a 128 15/95 ton two-mast schooner built in 1843. She was described as having a billet head and square stern, built for the Southern Packet Trade Company and measured 79'1" x 22'9" x 8'2". The schooner *Harriett* was owned by Benjamin and J. D. Pennell in 1843 and by Sanford Perkins and other in 1849. Records show the schooner *Harriett,* commanded by Captain Shubael Merriman, voyaged to the West Indies from Portland, Maine on February 23, 1846.

The brig *Angier H. Curtis* was built in Harpswell, Maine by Paul R. Curtis and Albion Estes in 1864. Their shipyard was located near Lookout Point in Harpswell Center. She was a half-brig of 325 tons and overall dimensions of 110.9' in length, 27' in the beam, and a depth of 10.5'.

According to the records, the brig *Angier H. Curtis* traveled to U.S. ports such as Boston, Philadelphia, Mobile and New York and Cuban ports such as Matanzas, Cardenas, Havana.

Merriman was master of the brig up until 1877. Ship registers identify Captain Shephard and Bibber as masters of the brig *Angier H. Curtis* between 1877 and 1879.

Biographical Note

Captain Shubael Merriman (1806-1898)

Captain Shubael Merriman was born on March 14, 1806 in Harpswell, Maine. He was the son of Walter Merriman (1766-1855) and Isabel Alexander (1774-1829). His brother Capt. Thomas Merriman (1813-1856) was shipmaster for the bark *Ben Adams* who was lost at sea on January 2, 1856 aboard the bark, 15 hours out of Boston, bound for New Orleans. Other siblings were sisters Salome (1808-1889), Betsey Barnes (1817-1895) and Anna (1810-1851) and brothers David (1796-1862), Walter (1798-1835), Robert (1803-1869), Eli (1808-1851) and Capt. Isaac Merriman (1801-1880).

Captain Shubael Merriman married Mary Jane Curtis (1809-1894) on January 19, 1834, daughter of Nehemiah Curtis and Jane Alexander. The couple had ten children: Walter (1835-1890), Shubael Jr. (1837-1865), Angier H. (1839-1915), Adeline O. (1842-?), Elizabeth (1842-6mos.), Harriet Jane (1844-?), Hiram S. (1847-?), Joseph C. (1849-1850), John B. (1850-1870), and Augustus (1854-?).

Capt. Shubael Merriman was involved in the shipbuilding business and invested in the construction of the bark *Andes*, built at the Curtis and Estes shipyard, for his son Capt. William Merriman in 1855 and the brig *Angier H. Curtis,* built in Harpswell, for his son Capt. Angier H. Merriman.

Capt. Shubael Merriman resided in Harpswell Center, Maine his entire life. He died on June 14, 1898.

Captain Angier H. Merriman (1839-1915)

Capt. Angier H. Merriman was born on February 5, 1839 and resided in Topsham, Maine. He was master of the brig *Angier H. Curtis* from 1866 to 1877. He married his

first wife, Octavia Crawford (1843-1869), daughter of Rev. Thomas Crawford and Thankful Johnson, on January 2, 1865. She died June 15, 1869. Six years later, on Ocrober 21, 1875, Capt. A. H. Merriman married Hannah P. Knight of Topsham, Maine. They had three children: Minnie J., Rena K., and Angier Jr.

Capt. Angier H. Merriman died in Topsham on June 24, 1915 at the age of 76 and was buried there at Riverview Cemetery.

References:

1. Wheeler, George Augustus. History of Brunswick, Topsham, and Harpswell. Somersworth: New Hampshire Pub. Co., 1974, pg. 844.
2. Sinnett, Charles N. Walter Merryman of Harpswell, Maine and his descendants. Concord, NH: Rumford printing, 1905. ePub. http://archive.org/stream/waltermerrymanof00sinn#page/n5/mode/2up
3. Harpswell Historical Society. http://harpswellhistorical.org/history/hotels/lookoutpoint.htm

Scope and Content

The collection consists of seven photographs, one Articles of Agreement for the schooner *Harriett*, five Articles of Agreement for the brig *Angier H. Curtis*, a copy of Henry Ward Beecher's pamphlet entitled How to Become a Christian published in 1858, a visiting card from Lydia D. Skolfield with accompanying envelopes, a letter from Capt. Angier H. Merriman to one of his sisters dated April 19, 1899, and a binder with numerous vessel papers for the brig *Angier H. Curtis*.

Articles of Agreement list crewmen names and ports of destination including Cuba and the West Indies.

Vessel papers in the binder consists of construction and general accounts for voyages to New York, Philadelphia, Havana, Mantanzas and Cardenas. Also are freight and cargo records, a list of stores, hospital dues and one document for medical assistance given to seaman Seymour Richardson.

Organization and Description of Series

MS-382 Capt. Shubael Merriman Papers

Series I: Vessel Papers
- Subseries Ia: *Harriett* (Schooner)
- Subseries Ib: *Angier H. Curtis* (Brig)

Series II: Family Papers
- Subseries IIa. Correspondence
- Subseries IIb. Accounts
- Subseries IIc. Ephemera

Series III. Photographs

Series I. Vessel Papers. This series contains vessel papers. It has been grouped into two series:

Subseries Ia. Schooner *Harriett* (1846). One Articles of Agreement for the schooner *Harriett*, Captain Shubael Merriman as shipmaster.

Subseries Ib. Brig *Angier H. Curtis* (1864-1877). Vessel papers include some early construction accounts for materials and outfitting signed off by Capt. Shubael Merriman. Voyage accounts start at 1871 with Capt. Angier H. Merriam as master. Also included are six articles of agreements, freight and cargo receipts, hospital dues and document for treating a crewman. Custom house and consular papers from Havana, Matanzas and Cardenas.

Series II. Family Papers. This series contains various personal papers. It has been grouped into three subseries:

Subseries IIa. Correspondence (1899): A letter written by Angier [unclear if this is Angier H. Merriman or Angier H. Curtis] to a sister in 1899. It is unknown which sister Angier is writing to or what vessel he was on.

Subseries IIb. Personal Accounts (1876, 1881-82): Two promissory notes from Capt. Shubael Merriman to his son Augustus and an invoice for items purchased between February 3 1876 to January 29, 1877. This is from Capt. Shubael Merriman to I. [Isaac?] Merriman.

Subseries IIc. Ephemera (1854*):* A copy of Henry Ward Beecher's pamphlet entitled <u>How to Become a Christian</u> published in 1858 belonged to Capt. Shubael Merriman, and a visiting card from Lydia D. Skolfield with accompanying envelopes addressed to Mr. and Mrs. Shubael Merriman.

Series III. Photographs (n.d.): There are seven photographs; six silver gelatin and sepia- toned prints and one albumen print. Photographs are taken at Harpswell, Maine and are of Merriman Point, Lookout Point House, an unidentified shipyard and a portrait. The portrait may be of Capt. Shubael Merriman (see artifact G93.90.11).

MS-382 Captain Shubael Merriman Papers Container List

Box#	Folder#	
Series I: Vessel Papers		
		Subseries Ia. *Harriet* (Schooner), Capt. Shubael Merriman
1	1	Crew—Articles of Agreement, 1846
		Subseries Ib. *Angier H. Curtis* (Brig), Capt. Angier H. Merriman
	2	Construction accounts, 1864-65
	3	Accounts general, New York, n.d., 1871
	4	Havana • Cardenas • Phila., May—July 1871
	5	Phila., Dec. 1871
	6	Mobile, AL, Dec. 1873
	7	Fernandina, FL, Dec. 1874
	8	Matanzas, Feb 1875
	9	New York • Cardenas, Mar.—June 1875
	10	Phila., Sept. 1877
	11	Accounts—Freight & Cargo, 1871-75
		Accounts, crew
	12	Articles of agreement,1867, 1871
	13	1875
	14	Accounts, crew—Hospital, private infirmary, 1871
	15	List of stores, 1871
Series II. Family Papers		
		Subseries IIa. Correspondence
	16	April 19, 1899. Angier to sister
		Subseries IIb. Personal Accounts
	17	1876, 1881-82
		Subseries IIc. Ephemera
	18	n.d., 1854
Series III. Photographs		
	19	Seven photographs, Harpswell, Maine, 19th and 20th century. One portrait of Captain Merriman, landscape photos of Merriman's Point, unidentified shipyard, a photo of Lookhouse Point House and a group photo outside of Lookout Point House. *(see Appendix A description)*

APPENDIX A — PHOTOGRAPH INDEX
19th and 20th century — dates unknown

Img #	Size (cm)	Size (in)	Description
1	15.75 x 10	6.25 x 4	Landscape image with cows. Overlooking cove at Harpswell. Silver-gelatin sepia-toned
2	11.5 x 7	4.5 x 2.75	Landscape image overlooking cove, Harpswell. Sepia-toned.
3	12 x 8.75	4.75 x 3.5	Landscape image overlooking cove, Harpswell. Sepia-toned.
4	11.5 x 7	4.5 x 2.75	Lookout Point House, distance exterior shot. Harpswell. Sepia-toned.
5	14.5 x 8.75	5.75 x 3.5	Group photo outside Lookout Point House. Harpswell. b/w photo.
6	12.7 x 8.25	5 x 3.25	Unidentified shipyard with schooner on stocks. Harpswell. Sepia-toned.
7	14 x 22.25 20.3 x 22.25	5.5 x 8.75 *(image)* 8 x 8.75 *(w/board)*	Possibly Captain Shubael Merriman (although person is not identified). Albumen print on board. (Note: broken piece of board, left corner)

APPENDIX B — CREW NAMES ON ARTICLES OF AGREEMENTS

Vessel Name	***Shipmaster***	***Date & Voyages***	***Crewmen names***
Harriette (Schooner) [Harriet]	Shubael Merriman	23 Feb. 1846 Portland to West Indies	Thomas Alexander, Robert Jackson, Samuel Todd, Lemuel Stover, David C. Stover
Angier H. Curtis (Brig)	Angier H. Merriman	14 Dec. 1867 Portland to Cuba	E.A. Duran, A.W. Hanson, Ambrose White, William Rich, John Small, Charles Stanley, E.M. Alexander
Angier H. Curtis (Brig)	Angier H. Merriman	10 Apr. 1871 Portland to various points Cuba to southern ports to West Indies Island	Ephraim Snow, John C. Greesh, Jacob Wilkins, Peter S. Hale, Jacob Rankin, John Dickinson, Simon Richardson, William Drakins
Angier H. Curtis (Brig)	Angier H. Merriman	3 Dec. 1874 Fernandina, FL to Barbados, West Indies Islands	Samuel S. Howard, George Wiley, Anthony J. Sybarah, John Williams, John Johnson, Charles Wilson
Angier H. Curtis (Brig)	Angier H. Merriman	18 Mar. 1875 New York to Cardenas and West Indies	Samuel S. Howard, Robert Wilkinson, Anthony J. Sybarah, Edward Connoly, Joseph Booth, John Jones, John Daily, and Ed Matthews, John Greig, John Munro, Rafael Pallacio, and [Theardoredied]